

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2008

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative
Contact: Lyndsay Griffin, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, 307-777-7180

Caudill joins WLCI team

Justin Caudill has taken the position as a Wyoming Department of Agriculture representative to the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI).

This is a new position, created to act as a liaison between the WLCI and the agriculture community. He will provide assistance and technical support for project planning and WLCI efforts.

The WLCI is a multi-agency, science-based effort to study, enhance, and conserve important wildlife habitats in southwest Wyoming while facilitating responsible development of the region's valuable energy resources.

The area is home to over 1,400 family farms and ranches which support 119,000 cattle and 95,000 sheep annually. The livestock industry in this area maintains open spaces that provide wildlife habitat and corridors for migratory wildlife. One of the goals of the WLCI includes working to ensure that grazing management practices support a viable livestock industry and associated open spaces.

"The activities in this area impact a large number of people from a variety of different backgrounds," Caudill said. "This initiative gives these different groups a voice in the projects, and helps us ensure the best reclamation and mitigation practices are used so everyone benefits."

Caudill has lived in Sweetwater County for 29 years. He has a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture/Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Before he accepted this position with the WLCI, Caudill worked as a field and lead inspector with the Technical Services Division of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. He also operates a farriers' service in Sweetwater County.

Caudill will work in the BLM district office in Rock Springs, and can be contacted by calling (307) 352-0378. For more information about the WLCI, please visit the website at www.wlci.gov.

###